



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 126

January Session, 2017

Substitute House Bill No. 7015

House of Representatives, March 22, 2017

The Committee on Banking reported through REP. LESSER of the 100th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING DEBIT CARD FRAUD AND PENALTIES FOR COLLECTION OF RENTAL PAYMENTS ON FORECLOSED PROPERTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53a-128a of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

3 As used in this section and sections 53a-128b to 53a-128i, inclusive,
4 as amended by this act:

5 (a) "Cardholder" or "holder of a card" means the person named on
6 the face of a [credit] payment card to whom or for whose benefit the
7 [credit] payment card is issued by an issuer or, in the case of a
8 payment card that does not bear that name of a person on its face, the
9 person who lawfully acquired the payment card;

10 (b) "Credit card" means any instrument or device, whether known
11 as a credit card, as a credit plate, or by any other name, issued with or
12 without fee by an issuer for the use of the cardholder in obtaining

13 money, goods, services or anything else of value on credit;

14 (c) "Debit card" means any card, code, device or other means of
15 access, or any combination thereof, that is issued or authorized for use
16 to debit an asset account held directly or indirectly by a financial
17 institution and that may be used by the cardholder to obtain money,
18 goods, services or anything else of value, regardless of whether the
19 card, code, device or other means of access, or any combination
20 thereof, is known as a debit card. "Debit card" includes, but is not
21 limited to, cards, codes, devices or other means of access or some
22 combination thereof, commonly known as payroll cards and
23 automated teller machine cards. "Debit card" does not include a check,
24 draft or similar paper instrument, or an electronic representation
25 thereof;

26 (d) "Digital wallet" means a software application that is used on a
27 computer or other device, including, but not limited to, a mobile
28 device, to store digital forms of one or more payment cards that may
29 be used to obtain money, goods, services or anything else of value;

30 [(c) "Expired credit card"] (e) "Expired payment card" means a
31 [credit] payment card [which] that is no longer valid because the term
32 shown on it has elapsed;

33 [(d)] (f) "Issuer" means the person [which] that issues a [credit]
34 payment card, or its agent duly authorized for that purpose;

35 [(e)] (g) "Participating party" means any person or any duly
36 authorized agent of such person, [which] that is obligated by contract
37 to acquire from another person providing money, goods, services or
38 anything else of value, a sales slip, sales draft or instrument for the
39 payment of money, evidencing a [credit] payment card transaction,
40 and from whom, directly or indirectly, the issuer is obligated by
41 contract to acquire such sales slip, sales draft, instrument for the
42 payment of money and the like;

43 (h) "Payment card" means either a credit card or a debit card;

44 [(f)] (i) "Receives" or "receiving" means acquiring possession,
45 custody or control;

46 [(g) "Revoked credit card"] (j) "Revoked payment card" means a
47 [credit] payment card [which] that is no longer valid because
48 permission to use it has been suspended or terminated by the issuer.

49 Sec. 2. Section 53a-128b of the general statutes is repealed and the
50 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

51 Any person who makes or causes to be made, either directly or
52 indirectly, any false statement in writing, knowing it to be false and
53 with intent that it be relied on, respecting [his] such person's identity
54 or [that] the identity of any other person or [his] such person's financial
55 condition or that of any other person, for the purpose of procuring the
56 issuance of a [credit] payment card or loading the payment card into a
57 digital wallet, violates this section and is subject to the penalties set
58 forth in subsection (a) of section 53a-128i.

59 Sec. 3. Section 53a-128c of the general statutes is repealed and the
60 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

61 (a) Any person who takes a [credit] payment card from the person,
62 possession, custody or control of another without the consent of the
63 cardholder or of the issuer or who, with knowledge that it has been so
64 taken, receives the [credit] payment card with intent to use it or to sell
65 it, or to transfer it to any person other than the issuer or the cardholder
66 is guilty of [credit] payment card theft and is subject to the penalties
67 set forth in subsection (a) of section 53a-128i. Taking a [credit] payment
68 card without consent includes obtaining it by conduct defined or
69 known as statutory larceny, common law larceny by trespassory
70 taking, common law larceny by trick, embezzlement, or obtaining
71 property by false pretense, false promise or extortion.

72 (b) Any person who receives a [credit] payment card that [he] such
73 person knows to have been lost, mislaid, or delivered under a mistake
74 as to the identity or address of the cardholder, and who retains

75 possession, custody or control thereof with intent to use it or to sell it
76 or to transfer it to any person other than the issuer or the cardholder, is
77 guilty of [credit] payment card theft and is subject to the penalties set
78 forth in subsection (a) of section 53a-128i.

79 (c) Any person other than the issuer who sells a [credit] payment
80 card or any person who buys a [credit] payment card from a person
81 other than the issuer violates this subsection and is subject to the
82 penalties set forth in subsection (a) of section 53a-128i.

83 (d) Any person who, with intent to defraud the issuer, a
84 participating party, or a person providing money, goods, services or
85 anything else of value, or any other person, obtains control over a
86 [credit] payment card as security for debt violates this subsection and
87 is subject to the penalties set forth in subsection (a) of section 53a-128i.

88 (e) Any person, other than the issuer, who, during any twelve-
89 month period, receives [credit] payment cards issued in the names of
90 two or more persons which [he] such person has reason to know were
91 taken or retained under circumstances which constitute [credit]
92 payment card theft or a violation of section 53a-128b, as amended by
93 this act, or subsection (c) or (d) of this section violates this subsection
94 and is subject to the penalties set forth in subsection (b) of section 53a-
95 128i.

96 (f) Any person who, with intent to defraud a purported issuer, a
97 participating party, or a person providing money, goods, services or
98 anything else of value, or any other person, falsely makes or falsely
99 embosses a purported [credit] payment card or falsely loads or causes
100 to be falsely loaded a payment card into a digital wallet or utters such
101 a [credit] payment card is guilty of [credit] payment card forgery and
102 is subject to the penalties set forth in subsection (b) of section 53a-128i.
103 A person "falsely makes" a [credit] payment card when [he] such
104 person makes or draws, in whole or in part, a device or instrument
105 which purports to be the [credit] payment card of a named issuer but
106 which is not such a [credit] payment card because the issuer did not
107 authorize the making or drawing, or when such person so alters a

108 [credit] payment card which was validly issued. A person "falsely
109 embosses" a [credit] payment card when, without the authorization of
110 the named issuer, [he] such person completes a [credit] payment card
111 by adding any of the matter, other than the signature of the
112 cardholder, which an issuer requires to appear on the [credit] payment
113 card before it can be used by a cardholder. A person "falsely loads" or
114 "causes to be falsely loaded" a payment card into a digital wallet when
115 such person stores or causes to be stored on a digital wallet the digital
116 form of (1) a payment card falsely made or falsely embossed by such
117 person, (2) a payment card taken, procured, received or retained by
118 such person under circumstances that constitute a violation of this
119 section or section 53a-128b, as amended by this act, or (3) a payment
120 card that such person knows is falsely made, falsely embossed, forged,
121 expired or revoked.

122 (g) Any person other than the cardholder or any person authorized
123 by [him] the cardholder who, with intent to defraud the issuer, a
124 participating party, or a person providing money, goods, services or
125 anything else of value, or any other person, signs a [credit] payment
126 card, violates this subsection and is subject to the penalties set forth in
127 subsection (a) of section 53a-128i.

128 Sec. 4. Section 53a-128d of the general statutes is repealed and the
129 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

130 Any person who, with intent to defraud the issuer, a participating
131 party, or a person providing money, goods, services or anything else of
132 value, or any other person, (1) uses for the purpose of obtaining
133 money, goods, services or anything else of value a [credit] payment
134 card obtained or retained in violation of section 53a-128b, as amended
135 by this act, or a [credit] payment card which [he] such person knows is
136 forged, expired or revoked, or (2) obtains money, goods, services or
137 anything else of value by representing without the consent of the
138 cardholder that [he] such person is the holder of a specified card or by
139 representing that [he] such person is the holder of a card and such card
140 has not in fact been issued, or (3) uses a [credit] payment card obtained

141 or retained in violation of section 53a-128c, as amended by this act, or a
142 [credit] payment card which [he] such person knows is forged, expired
143 or revoked, as authority or identification to cash or to attempt to cash
144 or otherwise to negotiate or transfer or to attempt to negotiate or
145 transfer any check or other order for the payment of money, whether
146 or not negotiable, if such negotiation or transfer or attempt to negotiate
147 or transfer would constitute a violation of section 53a-128 violates this
148 subsection and is subject to the penalties set forth in subsection (a) of
149 section 53a-128i, if the value of all money, goods, services and other
150 things of value obtained in violation of this subsection does not exceed
151 five hundred dollars in any six-month period; and is subject to the
152 penalties set forth in subsection (b) of section 53a-128i, if such value
153 does exceed five hundred dollars in any such six-month period.
154 Knowledge of revocation shall be presumed to have been received by a
155 cardholder four days after it has been mailed to [him] such cardholder,
156 at the address set forth on the [credit] payment card or at [his] such
157 cardholder's last-known address. [, by registered or certified mail,
158 return receipt requested, and, if, the address is more than five hundred
159 miles from the place of mailing, by air mail.] If the address is located
160 outside the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Canal
161 Zone or Canada, notice shall be presumed to have been received ten
162 days after mailing by registered or certified mail.

163 Sec. 5. Section 53a-128e of the general statutes is repealed and the
164 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

165 (a) Any person who is authorized by an issuer or a participating
166 party to furnish money, goods, services or anything else of value upon
167 presentation of a [credit] payment card by the cardholder, or any agent
168 or employee of such person, who, with intent to defraud the issuer, or
169 participating party, the cardholder, or any other person furnishes
170 money, goods, services or anything else of value upon presentation of
171 a [credit] payment card obtained or retained in violation of section 53a-
172 128c, as amended by this act, or a [credit] payment card which [he]
173 such person knows is forged, expired or revoked, violates this
174 subsection and is subject to the penalties set forth in subsection (a) of

175 section 53a-128i, if the value of all money, goods, services and other
176 things of value furnished in violation of this subsection does not
177 exceed five hundred dollars in any six-month period; and is subject to
178 the penalties set forth in subsection (b) of section 53a-128i if such value
179 does exceed five hundred dollars in any such six-month period.

180 (b) Any person who is authorized by an issuer or a participating
181 party to furnish money, goods, services or anything else of value upon
182 presentation of a [credit] payment card by the cardholder, or any agent
183 or employee of such person, who, with intent to defraud the issuer, a
184 participating party, the cardholder, or any other person fails to furnish
185 money, goods, services or anything else of value which [he] such
186 person represents in writing to the issuer or participating party that
187 [he] such person has furnished violates this subsection and is subject to
188 the penalties set forth in subsection (a) of section 53a-128i, if the
189 difference between the value of all money, goods, services and
190 anything else of value actually furnished and the value represented to
191 the issuer or participating party to have been furnished does not
192 exceed five hundred dollars in any six-month period; and is subject to
193 the penalties set forth in subsection (b) of section 53a-128i if such
194 difference does exceed five hundred dollars in any such six-month
195 period.

196 Sec. 6. Section 53a-128f of the general statutes is repealed and the
197 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

198 Any person, other than the cardholder, having under [his] such
199 person's possession, custody or control two or more incomplete
200 [credit] payment cards, or possessing a purported distinctive element
201 of a [credit] payment card, with intent to complete such incomplete
202 [credit] payment cards or to utilize such purported distinctive element
203 in the production or reproduction of any [credit] payment card,
204 without the consent of the issuer, or a person having under [his] such
205 person's possession, custody or control, with knowledge of its
206 character, a distinctive element of any [credit] payment card or any
207 machinery, plates or any contrivance designed to produce or

208 reproduce instruments purporting to be the [credit] payment cards of
 209 an issuer, or of any issuer in a group of issuers utilizing a common
 210 distinctive element or elements in [credit] payment cards issued by all
 211 members of such group, who has not consented to the production or
 212 reproduction of such cards, violates this section and is subject to the
 213 penalties set forth in subsection (b) of section 53a-128i. A [credit]
 214 payment card is "incomplete" if part of the matter other than the
 215 signature of the cardholder, which an issuer, or any issuer in a group
 216 of issuers utilizing a common distinctive element or elements in
 217 [credit] payments cards issued by all members of such group, requires
 218 to appear on the [credit] payment card, before it can be used by a
 219 cardholder, has not yet been stamped, embossed, imprinted or written
 220 on it. A "distinctive element" of a [credit] payment card is any material
 221 or component used in the fabrication of [credit] payment cards, which,
 222 by virtue of such element's chemical or physical composition, color or
 223 design, is unique to the [credit] payment cards issued by a particular
 224 issuer or group of issuers utilizing a common distinctive element or
 225 elements in [credit] payment cards issued by all members of such
 226 group.

227 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2017*) Any previous mortgagor of
 228 real property against whom a final judgment of foreclosure has been
 229 entered, who continues to collect rental payments on such property
 230 after passage of such mortgagor's law day, and who has no legal right
 231 to do so, shall be subject to the penalties for larceny under sections 53a-
 232 122 to 53a-125b, inclusive, of the general statutes depending on the
 233 amount involved.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-128a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-128b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-128c
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-128d
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-128e
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-128f

Sec. 7	October 1, 2017	New section
--------	-----------------	-------------

BA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 18 \$	FY 19 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost by expanding credit card crimes to include debit cards and adds a crime to the larceny statutes. To the extent that offenders are prosecuted for expanded offenses under this bill, potential costs for incarceration or probation supervision in the community, or judicial revenue would result. On average, it costs the state \$7,260 (including benefits) to supervise an inmate in the community as opposed to \$61,320 (including benefits) to incarcerate an offender. Currently there are 10 inmates incarcerated for various credit card related crimes and 647 incarcerated for various larceny statutes.

The bill also results in a potential revenue gain from criminal fines. In FY 16 there were 22 credit card related offenses that resulted in \$26,300 in fines and 439 larceny offenses that resulted in \$125,000 in fines.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: Department of Correction Summary by Controlling Offense, as of 3/16/2017
Judicial Department Offenses and Revenue Database

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7015*****AN ACT CONCERNING DEBIT CARD FRAUD AND PENALTIES FOR COLLECTION OF RENTAL PAYMENTS ON FORECLOSED PROPERTY.*****SUMMARY**

This bill expands credit card crimes to cover crimes involving debit cards. It defines a debit card as any card, code, device, or other means of access, or combination of them that (1) is issued or authorized to debit an asset account held directly or indirectly by a financial institution and (2) the cardholder may use to obtain money, goods, services, or anything of value. It does not have to be called a debit card; specifically includes payroll and ATM cards; and excludes checks, drafts, or similar paper instruments and their electronic representations. The bill also changes how notice of a card's revocation must be sent for purposes of these crimes and expands certain credit card crimes to cover falsely loading payment cards (credit or debit cards) into digital wallets.

The bill also makes it a form of larceny for a previous mortgagor of real property against whom a final foreclosure judgment has been entered to continue to collect rent after the final judgment if he or she has no right to do so. Generally, larceny crimes punish someone who wrongfully takes property from its owner, intending to deprive another of the property or appropriate it to someone else. The penalty for larceny varies based on the amount of property taken, from a class C misdemeanor (punishable by up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both) to a class B felony (punishable by up to 20 years in prison, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD CRIMES

The bill expands the credit card crimes described in Table 1 to cover the same conduct involving debit cards.

Table 1: Credit Card Crimes Expanded by the Bill to Cover Debit Cards

Citation	Conduct	Penalty
53a-128b	Knowingly making a false statement in writing, with the intent that it be relied on, about a person's identity or financial condition to procure a card	Class A misdemeanor (punishable by up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both)
53a-128c(a)	Taking a card from someone without the cardholder's or issuer's consent or receiving a card knowing it was taken without consent and with intent to use, sell, or transfer it to another	Class A misdemeanor
53a-128c(b)	Receiving a card knowing it is lost, mislaid, or delivered by mistake and keeping it with intent to use, sell, or transfer it to someone	Class A misdemeanor
53a-128c(c)	Non-issuer selling a card or anyone buying a card from someone other than an issuer	Class A misdemeanor
53a-128c(d)	Obtaining control over a card as security for a debt, with intent to defraud	Class A misdemeanor
53a-128c(e)	Receiving cards issued in the names of at least two people that the person has reason to know were taken or kept under circumstances that amount to card theft or certain other card crimes	Class D felony (punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both)
53a-128c(f)	Falsely making or embossing a card with intent to defraud	Class D felony
53a-128c(g)	Someone other than a cardholder or authorized person signing a card with intent to defraud	Class A misdemeanor
53a-128d	With intent to defraud: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> using a card obtained or retained through false statements to obtain money, goods, services, or anything of value; obtaining money, goods, services, or anything of value by representing without the cardholder's consent that he or she is the cardholder and the card has not in fact been issued; or using an illegally obtained or retained card or one known to be forged, expired, or revoked, as authority or identification to cash, attempt to cash, negotiate, or transfer a check or other money order that would violate checking laws 	If value of money or property illegally obtained within six months is up to \$500: Class A misdemeanor If value exceeds \$500 within six months: Class D felony
53a-128e(a)	Furnishing money, goods, services, or anything of value when (1) presented with a card obtained by theft or certain other illegal means or which the person knows is forged, expired, or revoked and (2) intending to defraud	If value of money or property illegally obtained within six months is up to \$500: Class A

	the issuer, participating party, cardholder, or someone else	misdemeanor If value exceeds \$500 within six months: Class D felony
53a-128e(b)	Falsely representing in writing to the card issuer, with intent to defraud, that money, goods, services, or anything of value was furnished upon the appropriate presentation of a card	If difference in value of money or property furnished exceeds the value represented, within six months, is up to \$500: Class A misdemeanor If value exceeds \$500 within six months: Class D felony
53a-128f	Someone, other than cardholder, possessing or controlling at least two incomplete cards or purported distinctive elements of a card, intending to complete or use them to produce cards without the issuer's consent Possessing or controlling a distinctive element of a card or machinery, plates, or items designed to produce instruments purporting to be cards when the issuer has not consented to it	Class D felony

For all of these crimes, the bill also expands who is considered a “cardholder.” Under current law, a cardholder is the person named on the card to whom or for whose benefit the card is issued by an issuer. The bill also includes a person who lawfully acquired the card if the card does not have a person's name on it.

Some of the crimes described above (see CGS § 53a-128d) punish actions knowingly taken with a revoked card. The law presumes knowledge of a card's revocation four days after notice of it is mailed to the cardholder at his or her address on the card or last known address. The bill eliminates a requirement for the revocation notice to be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by airmail if the address is more than 500 miles away. By law, notice is presumed received 10 days after mailing by registered or certified mail if the address is outside the U.S., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Canal Zone, or Canada.

Digital Wallets

The bill expands the false statement crime described above to include false statements to procure the loading of a payment card into a digital wallet (§ 2). By law, this crime is a class A misdemeanor.

The bill also makes it a crime to falsely load, or cause false loading of, a payment card into a digital wallet, with intent to defraud. The bill makes this a class D felony (§ 3(f)).

The bill defines a digital wallet as a software application used on a computer or other device, including a mobile device, to store digital forms of payment cards that can be used to obtain money, goods, services, or anything of value.

Under the bill, a person falsely loads or causes false loading of a payment card into a digital wallet when he or she stores or causes to be stored on a digital wallet the digital form of a payment card that (1) is falsely made or embossed by the person; (2) is taken, procured, received, or retained by the person under circumstances that amount to certain types of payment card fraud under the bill; or (3) he or she knows is falsely made or embossed, forged, expired, or revoked.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Banking Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/07/2017)